

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02

SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8897

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UNCLAS LOME 0480

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, ETRD, EEC, ACP

SUBJECT: ACP/EEC CONVENTION OF LOME SIGNED FEB 28, 1975

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 1519

B) ACCRA 1032

C) EC BRUSSELS 1129

D) EC BRUSSELS 952

1. SUMMARY. ACP/EEC CONVENTION OF LOME WAS SIGNED THIS MORNING (FEB. 28) IN LOME'S ULTRA-MODERN MAISON DU RASSEMBLEMENT DU PEUPLE TOGOLAIS (RPT). COLORFUL, THREE-AND-ONE HALF HOUR PROCEEDINGS PRODUCED NO SURPRISES IN ANY OF SEVEN PRINCIPAL SPEECHES. ALL PARTIES SIGNED EXCEPT GUINEA (ABSENT) AND GUINEA-BISSAU (SEE BELOW). SPECTACULAR WELCOME FOR DELEGATES AND WELL-ORGANIZED PERFORMANCE OF WHOLE MAMMOTH AFFAIR MUST BE REGARDED AS MASTERSTROKE BY PRESIDENT EYADEMA, WHOSE PRAISES WERE FREQUENTLY SUNG AND CHANTED BY SOME TWO THOUSAND "ANIMATEURS" AND "ANIMATRICES" PACKED TO RAFTERS IN 3000-SEAT AUDITORIUM. EMBASSY WILL POUCH COPIES ALL AVAILABLE SPEECHES FOR DEPARTMENT AND US MISSION BRUSSELS. END SUMMARY.

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2. MOST IMPRESSIVE AND HISTORIC INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OVER HELD IN THIS SMALL CAPITAL CAME TO HAPPY CONCLUSION THIS MORNING WITH SIGNING OF ACP/EEC CONVENTION OF LOME BY ALL NINE EEC PARTIES, PLUS COUNCIL OF EC REPS, AND ALL ACP'S EXCEPT GUINEA AND GUINEA-BISSAU. GUINEA DELSIMPLY DID NOT ARRIVE; UNDERSTAND GUINEAN REP WILL SIGN IN BRUSSELS IN NEAR FUTURE. GUINEA-BISSAU DEL VASCO CABRAL ROSE AS IF TO SIGN, BUT GAVE BRIEF SPEECH EXPLAINING THAT B-B'S INTENT TO ADHERE MUST FIRST BE APPROVED BY NEWLY-FORMED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WHICH IS EXPECTED TO APPROVE ADHESION IN APRIL.

3. SIGNING TOOK PLACE IN 3000-SEAT GRANDE SALLE OF MAISON DU RPT, AGAINST BACKDROP OF 2000 PARTY MILITANTS ("ANIMATEURS" AND "ANIMATRICES"), WHO SANG AND CHANTED BETWEEN ALL SPEECHES, AND MUSIC OF HIGH-LIFE JAZZ COMBO, AFRICAN DRUMS AND BELLS. SEVEN PRINCIPAL SPEECHES GIVEN BEFORE SIGNING: FONMIN RAMPHAL OF GUYANA; PRIME MINISTER MARA OF FIJI; MR. ORTOLI, PRESIDENT OF EC COMMISSION; FON MIN FITZGERALD OF IRELAND, ACTING PRESIDENT, EC COUNCIL; FINANCE AND ECON AFFAIRS MIN BABACAR BA OF SENEGAL, ACTING PRESIDENT OF ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS; PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM OF MURITIUS; PRESIDENT EYADEMA OF TOGO.

4. CHARGE AND ECONOFF ATTENDED CEREMONY AND EMBASSY HAS JUST NOW OBTAINED MOST OF SPEECHES. IN LIGHT COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING FROM BRUSSELS (REFTELS A, C, D), BELIEVE THERE WAS NOTHING NEW OR SURPRISING IN ANY OF SEVEN DISCOURSES. (FIJI PM DID INVITE ACP/EEC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO HOLD ONE OF ITS EARLY MEETINGS IN SUVA.) IN SUBSEQUENT TELEGRAM WILL SEND SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS. WILL AIRPOUCH TEXTS TO DEPARTMENT WITH REQUEST THAT COPIES BE MADE AND SENT TO USEC BRUSSELS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT REPEAT TO EEC CAPITALS, AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS, AND NASSAU, BRIDGETOWN, SUVA, GEORGETOWN, KINGSTON, WELLINGTON, AND PORT OF SPAIN. CURRAN

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